

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

September 13, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn, MD
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information and
International Security
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Coburn:

President Bollinger has asked me to respond on behalf of Columbia University to your letter of July 27, 2006 regarding federal earmarking appropriations received by the University. Columbia's researchers have long partnered with the federal government by successfully competing for merit-based, peer-reviewed federal funding from a number of agencies. We strongly believe that this process produces the best scholarship and the most innovative discoveries.

To put the information about our federal earmarks into context, since 2000, Columbia has received approximately \$2.585 billion in federal funding for research, training and service projects. Columbia's policy is not to seek earmarked funds from those federal agencies that provide funds generally through the competitive peer-review process.

On occasion, Columbia has worked with the New York Delegation to obtain congressionally-directed funding for projects and programs for which funding was not readily available from more traditional sources. Most of these funds are for collaborative programs that serve national needs in areas such as national security, conservation and diversity in the federal workforce. Since 2000, Columbia has received less than 1% of the University's total federal funding from earmarked appropriations.

Columbia University files semi-annual federal lobbying disclosure reports that are submitted to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives in compliance with federal rules. We currently engage one consultant whose work includes lobbying to help create a coalition of research universities that supports increased funding for NOAA's extramural research budget. Since 2002, we have not used any outside consultants to assist us in advocating for congressionally directed projects.

If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-212-854-1656 or our government affairs representative, Ellen S. Smith, at 1-212-854-3394.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David I. Hirsh", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

David I. Hirsh
Executive Vice President for Research

cc: Lee C. Bollinger
President, Columbia University

Maxine Griffith
Executive Vice President,
Government and Community Affairs